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## Members of Congress see a day in the life of a Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier

By Maria Gallegos  
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center's Warrior Transition Battalion, in coordination with Warrior Transition Command, hosted a "Day in the Life of a WTB Soldier" at the Fort Sam Houston WTB to better inform the public of all the services provided.

Members of congress and their staff were invited to participate in the event to receive a firsthand look at how the Army cares for and provide services to Soldiers and their Families.

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and staffer Scott Ferguson were first to participate in the event Sept. 4, followed by Rep. Will Hurd (R-Texas) and former WTB Soldier Jon Arnold, who visited Sept. 15.

The day included an overview of the WTB's mission and purpose, transition and Soldier and family assistance briefs, a WTB barracks tour and a Soldier Adaptive and Reconditioning Program overview and demonstrations, emphasizing the importance of Soldiers care and transition programs for the Army's wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers.

"This event gave us an opportunity to showcase our facilities and inform the invitees about the battalion's mission. It also allowed us to highlight our partnerships with Department of Defense and local community organizations



Photo by Robert T. Shields

Rep. Lamar Smith (right) speaks to (from left) Sgt. 1st Class Allen Armstrong, Capt. Kelly Elming and Staff Sgt. Robert Green during the "Day in the Life of a Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier" visit at the Center for Intrepid Sept. 4.

that play an important role in assisting our Soldiers and families during their transition period," said Maj. Sarah Thompson, S3 WTB staff and project officer for the event.

The WTB's mission is to ensure every Soldier receives the best care and service during his or her transition either back to duty or to the civilian community. During the visit, WTB commander Lt. Col. Michael Harper stressed the transition process and the Soldier's Comprehensive Transition Plan.

"One of the main components to start the transition process

is through the Comprehensive Transition Plan," Harper said. "This plan is set by the Soldier, with support of medical professionals, who will determine how they want to move ahead in their transition. It is their personal living plan of action that focuses on their future.

"Once this is established, our team of Triad of Care professionals, will help them work toward that goal," Harper added. "We look at every aspect of care individually and tailor each transition process to achieve the goals

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# Defense Health Agency celebrates full operational capability as a mile marker, not the finish line

By Lt. Gen. Douglas Robb  
Director, Defense Health Agency

On Oct. 1, the Defense Health Agency celebrated its achievement of full operational capability, two years after the agency was first established.

It's been an exciting and rewarding time. We have grown as an organization – certainly in size, but also in maturity and the sophistication of our analytic and management functions.

We have worked together to support the Services and our combatant commanders in their missions. We have delivered on our commitment to provide the best health care possible to our 9.5 million service members, retirees and their families. We have made the entire Military Health System enterprise better.

While the agency is just two years old, its genesis goes back further.

In 2011, the deputy secretary of Defense convened a task force to look at options for the long-term governance of the MHS. The lessons of 10 years of war combined with the fiscal realities of

the present established the value of a more integrated approach in support of operational forces.

From that task force was born the idea of the DHA, an organization built for the services by the services – under the auspices of the Army, Navy and Air Force medical departments. Our overriding mission is to have a medically ready force and ready medical force at all times, fully supporting a better, stronger, more relevant – and beyond that, more viable – MHS.

As the DHA stood up – a process I'll make the point of saying took great vision and tenacity – we worked to identify the core functions, find where the opportunities for greater integration exist, and institute repeatable processes across the enterprise.

We've streamlined our processes in both our clinical and business operations and are working as one team across the entire MHS community – the Services, Joint Staff and outside experts who've established enterprise-wide shared services in other industries.

For example, work-

ing as one team, DHA's Healthcare Operations led the MHS response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. What was learned in the response will help the region, as well as our own efforts, to be better prepared against infectious diseases.

More recently, using more than 800 experts from across the MHS, we put together a request for proposal for a new electronic health record. Industry responded, and we are acquiring more than just a health record. We'll have a better system of tracking the care of our beneficiaries and securely sharing electronic health information across systems of care.

Our beneficiaries will have increased abilities to monitor their health care and communicate with their health care providers.

What's the result of our work so far? Improved delivery of services with substantial savings to the Defense Department and the taxpayer.

We're saving valuable resources, \$350 million in fiscal year 2014 alone, and projecting nearly \$3.5 billion in savings over the

next four years.

We've become a platform for innovation across the Services. We're encouraging military medical research and development, both within the MHS and with external partners in academia and the private sector, in an effort to not only ensure our forces are in a constant state of military readiness, but to also ensure we have the most advanced medical means and knowledge to restore and return them to duty when ill or injured.

There's much to be proud of from the past two years, but we still have much work to do.

As a combat support agency, we want to become to medicine what the Defense Logistics Agency is to logistics. We are building a health system that celebrates and protects the special expertise that is required for Army, Navy and Air Force medicine, while recognizing there is a great deal of our work that requires common approaches to medical care, and common approaches to how we conduct business.

When we make processes more efficient,



Lt. Gen. Douglas Robb

we also need to enhance readiness, safety and quality. The DHA works with the services to make that happen. Our agency was built by, and is staffed by, dedicated professionals from the services and from our career civilian staff who are determined to see this succeed.

While we celebrate the major milestone of full operational capability, I want to emphasize this is just a mile marker, not the finish line. No one takes success as a given.

To my DHA colleagues, I encourage you to stay the course, continue to mature the organization and always seek out new opportunities for improvement and advancement. We'll continue to strive for excellence, collaborating with the services, military medical leaders, clinicians and beneficiaries to ensure our nation has a medically ready force ... and a ready medical force now and in the future.

## How to submit Armed Forces Action Plan issues

Looking to submit an issue to possibly be brought up at the Armed Forces Action Plan conference at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Nov. 3-5?

The Armed Forces Action Plan program is a grassroots process that provides input from service members and family members to armed forces leadership telling them what works, what doesn't and what they think is needed to fix the problem. It alerts commanders and military leadership to issues of concern that need their attention, and gives them

the opportunity to quickly implement plans to resolve those issues.

Submit your idea by:

1. Scanning the QR code in this article.
2. In person in any of the Military & Family Readiness Centers at JBSA-Lackland, JBSA-Randolph or JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.
3. Sending an email to usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-fss-volunteer@mail.mil.
5. Visiting the <http://www.jbsa.mil> website, Military

Family Support, Family Support, Military & Family Readiness Services, Armed Forces Action Plan, Submit an Issue, click submit button.  
6. Going to the <http://armyonesource.com> website, Family Programs & Services, Army Family Action Plan Issue Management System, Submit Issue.  
For more information, call 221-2380.



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## News Briefs

### National Night Out Planned For Tuesday

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston National Night Out, a neighborhood drug and crime prevention event, is planned from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Fort Sam Houston Resident Center, 2739 Dickman Road. The event aims to raise awareness in communities to promote partnerships with law enforcement to prevent crime. There will be live music and events for the whole family to enjoy.

### Hispanic Heritage Luncheon At Gateway Club Oct. 9

The Joint Base San Antonio Hispanic Heritage Committee hosts the 2015 Hispanic Heritage Luncheon at the JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 9. Guest speaker is Command Chief Master Sgt. Jose LugoSantiago from the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center. Price is \$15 and includes salad, pernil (pulled pork), Spanish rice, fried plantains and flan. The 2015 theme is "Hispanic Americans: Energizing Our Nation's Diversity." Dress is uniform of the day for military and business casual for civilians. For more information, call 218-1682 or visit <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/index?i=256403&k=0064440D7B54>.

### Community College Of The Air Force Graduation

The fall 2015 graduation and diploma recognition ceremony for the Community College of the Air Force takes place at 2 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Forbes Hall auditorium, 950 Voyager Drive at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Annex.

### Budge Dental Clinic Welcomes Army North, Army South Soldiers

Starting Oct. 11, the Budge Dental Clinic at 3145 Garden Ave. will provide dental treatment for all U.S. Army North and U.S. Army South Soldiers. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays. Call 808-3735 or 808-3736 for more information.

### Air Force Military Ambassador Program Accepting Applications

Two articulate, self-confident Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air

# Staff, patients celebrate grand opening of community-based Westover Medical Home

By Elaine Sanchez  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center celebrated the grand opening of its newest and largest community-based medical home with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 18.

Westover Medical Home is a 14,000-square-foot military primary care clinic equipped with a laboratory and full service pharmacy with a drive through win-

dow option. Located on the Northwest side of San Antonio at 10010 Rogers Crossing, the clinic officially opened to military beneficiaries in the surrounding area last month.

"We are proud to bring military medicine right into the neighborhood where our patients live," said Army Col. Kevin Moore, Department of Family and Community Medicine chief, at the ceremony. "Westover will expand the reach of military medicine in

San Antonio, allowing us to care for more than 14,400 patients when fully staffed and operational."

In its "end state," the clinic will house 13 primary care providers, a behavioral health specialist, clinical pharmacologist, and more than 50 nurses, pharmacists, technicians and medical support staff. "We have handpicked a dedicated and talented staff to care for our patients," Moore said.

In his remarks,



Photos by Robert T. Shields

(From left) Brooke Army Medical Center Commander Col. Evan M. Renz, Southern Regional Medical Command Commander Brig. Gen. Barbara Holcomb and Dr. Darii Ann Lane, Westover Medical Home clinic officer in charge, cut the ribbon to officially open Westover Medical Home in Northwest San Antonio Sept. 18. Westover, BAMC's newest community-based clinic, is open to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the surrounding area. The clinic provides primary care, behavioral health services, on-site laboratory capabilities and a pharmacy.



Maria Colbert (right) assists Army spouse Laura Gleason check in for her appointment at the Westover Medical Home front desk Sept. 18. The new facility is located at 10010 Rogers Crossing, near State Highway 151 and Westover Hills Boulevard.

BAMC Commander Col. Evan Renz thanked everyone who contributed to the new clinic. "This is a beautiful facility and a staff with exceptional qualifications," he said. "With the location, access, services and convenience for our patients, I think we're on track for success."

During the ceremony, several patients looked on from the newly completed waiting areas. Army retiree Rick Lugo said he and his wife were thrilled when they heard about the new clinic, conveniently located five miles from their home. When attending other military clinics, "we would leave the house at 8 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. appointment," he said. "Now, we leave our house 10 minutes prior and still make it on time."

When Nick and Clarita Alhambra heard about Westover, they immediately called to enroll. The day of the ceremony marked

their second visit to the facility. "It's a very nice clinic and the parking is great," Clarita said.

Staff and patients applauded as Brig. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb, commanding general, Southern Regional Medical Command, Renz, and Dr. Darii Ann Lane, clinic officer in charge, cut the ribbon. The ceremony marks the beginning of a "great new venture," Holcomb said.

Westover is one of nearly a dozen military medical clinics across San Antonio, and one of several community-based medical homes designed to offer convenient, high quality care to military families throughout the San Antonio Military Health System.

TRICARE beneficiaries who would like to enroll or move to the new Westover location can visit <https://www.humanamilitary.com> or call 800-444-5445. For beneficiaries age 65 or older, call 808-2721 for more information.

# *Fire department reminds residents: ‘Hear the beep where you sleep – every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm’*

By Anthony Willett  
Joint Base San Antonio Fire  
Emergency Services Fire  
Prevention Office

Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a fire. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign titled "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, Joint Base San Antonio firefighters are joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association during Fire Prevention Week, Sunday through Oct. 10, to remind JBSA residents about the

importance of having working smoke alarms in the home and testing them monthly.

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire by half. Meanwhile, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with missing or malfunctioning smoke alarms.

Fire Chief Mark Ledford, 34-year veteran of the Air Force Fire Emergency Services, has seen the positive effects of smoke alarms.

"In a fire, seconds count," Ledford said. "Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7

a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate

sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and under-

stands what to do when they hear it.

According to recent NFPA reports, the death rate was much higher in fires in which a smoke alarm was present but did not operate than it was in fires in which the homes had no smoke alarms.

To learn more about smoke alarms and this

year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, visit NFPA's Web site at <http://www.firepreventionweek.org>. For fire and life safety questions, contact the operating location fire prevention offices at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston at 221-2727, JBSA-Lackland at 671-2921 and JBSA-Randolph at 652-6915.





## News Briefs

### Continued from P3

National Guard members are needed to serve as military ambassadors at community events to represent Joint Base San Antonio in 2016. One male and one female ambassador are chosen each year to represent the Air Force at many community events and promote the military's commitment and relationship with the local community around South Texas. All E-4 to E-7 Air Force members, who are 21 years old and older and assigned to Joint Base San Antonio are eligible to apply to be a military ambassador. Once nominated, candidates appear before a selection board of chief master sergeants and former Air Force ambassadors. Nomination deadline is Oct. 16. For more information, call 808-0002.

### North New Braunfels, Harry Wurzbach West Access Control Points Open In Mornings

The North New Braunfels Access Control Point, located by the Quadrangle, and the Harry Wurzbach West ACP, also known as the Pershing Gate, are open for incoming and outgoing traffic from 5:30-8:30 a.m. Mondays through Fridays, except on federal holidays, according to the 502nd Security Forces Squadron.

### Stray Animals Notice For JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Residents

Many stray or roaming animal sightings are near residences. The stray or roaming animals are seeking food, water and shelter. Although this is not necessarily a housing problem, housing officials ask that residents refrain from feeding any animal that does not belong to them or that is running wild on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. If stray or roaming dogs in housing areas or entering the installation are seen, please call the 502nd Civil Engineering Squadron service call desk at 671-5555 to establish a work order and report the stray as soon as possible. Civil engineers will set traps for the strays and remove once the strays have been caught. If a wild animal is seen, keep away and make sure that no one is leaving food or water near housing areas. In addition, call Lincoln Military Housing at 221-0948 to have pest control service place a trap around the residence.

# Task Force 51 commander promoted to major general

By Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke  
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

The commander of Army North's Task Force 51, Brian C. Harris, was promoted to major general Sept. 18 in the Quadrangle in front of more than 100 service members, friends and family.

Harris was hand-picked to command Task Force 51 by Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general and senior Army commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. Wiggins said that he kept an eye on Harris throughout his career and when he became available, there was no easier decision than choosing Harris

for the position.

Harris thanked his wife, Wanda, and his children, saying that this is really their promotion.

"The one thing that has not changed in our Army is leadership, friendship and family," Harris said. "I have to thank my family, as I think what they have been through and I am very proud of my kids and the support they have to the Army. I am very grateful as a father."

Harris was commissioned in the Army National Guard as an infantry officer in 1984. He served in multiple infantry and armor officer assignments in various company, battalion and brigade level positions.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wynn Hoke

Lt. Gen. Perry L. Wiggins (left), U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) commanding general and senior Army commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, along with Wanda Harris, pin major general rank onto Brian C. Harris during his promotion ceremony at the Quadrangle Sept. 18.

"In order to be a great infantry officer, you have to learn to love your Soldiers," Harris said. "It is about unconditional love of taking care of your Soldiers

because it is about their ability to support you that was most important and about leading from the front."

Task Force 51 is a rapidly deploy-

able command post with the responsibility to support federal agencies when conducting Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By 2nd Lt. Devon Pilarowski  
Army Family Advocacy

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Joint Base San Antonio Family Advocacy Program looks to bring awareness to this issue, and provide support, assistance, and education in order to lower the numbers of domestic violence and maltreatment complaints across all installations and among military families in general.

Throughout October, there will be numerous events across JBSA in order to promote awareness, show support for victims and their families and provide resources and education to the military community at large.



In an initiative that began Thursday and will continue throughout the month, one location at each installation will be illuminated with purple lights during hours of darkness.

The "I Can, We Can" project will also be held at the main medical facility on each installation on various dates. This hand-painted art project is sponsored by the Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates to raise awareness and prevention. This event will be held at the San Antonio

Military Medical Center Tuesday, at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Wednesday and at the Randolph Main Clinic Oct. 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at all locations.

The final event of the month will be the 5K Domestic Violence Awareness Run/Walk & Shelter Drive held at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at Fort Sam Houston Oct. 24. Registration for this event begins at 7:15 a.m. and the run begins at 8 a.m. Partici-

pants are encouraged to wear purple to show support.

The U.S. military has averaged just under 8,000 domestic violence complaints per year for the last five years.

These complaints came from families with at least one active duty service member. According to the Department of Defense, more than 2,500 of those complaints involved male victims and female offenders, which is higher than rates for civilians.

These numbers may also be skewed, since research shows that male victims are less likely to report for a number of reasons and may feel that services available are only targeted toward

female victims.

Even though domestic violence complaints in the military dropped during the height of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, those numbers have been progressively creeping up over the last few years even though the numbers for male victims has remained steady at 33 percent.

Some studies in the military actually suggest that women are more likely to be abusive in military relationships. And in many cases, there is mutual aggression from both parties in the relationship.

For more information, call the Family Advocacy Program at 292-5967 or stop by the fifth floor of WHASC.

# JBSA participates in Proud Week Fall Clean-Up Oct. 7-9

By David DeKunder  
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Groups of volunteers will bring brooms, trash bags, rakes and gloves to help clean and spruce up Joint Base San Antonio for the annual Proud Week Fall Cleanup Oct. 7-9.

Volunteers from mission partners, tenant units, organizations and agencies at all three JBSA locations, including JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, are participating in the cleanup, said Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, 502nd Security Forces and Logistics Group superintendent.

McCool said the volunteers who will be helping to clean up areas at JBSA locations include active-duty members and their families, along with Department of Defense civilians.

JBSA members participating in the cleanup will be picking up trash, fallen tree

limbs, brush and old furniture at buildings, facilities and recreational and park areas, McCool said. Also, cleanup volunteers will be sweeping sidewalks and curbs and cleaning fields, streets, parking lots and work, storage and warehouse areas.

"Taking pride in where you live and work is everyone's responsibility," McCool said. "Proud Week gives us an opportunity to pause from our daily operations and focus on maintaining a high beautification standard throughout JBSA."

"Our installation is the largest joint base in the Department of Defense, and we receive visitors from across our Air Force and entire nation weekly," she added. "Our bases' appearances are a reflection of all us and we want to put our best image forward."

Antony Person, 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron operations flight chief, said the

squadron will provide tools and accessories to volunteers for the cleanup on a first-come, first-serve basis at JBSA locations. Tools and accessories being provided by the 502nd CES include rakes, brooms, trimmers, trash bags, wheel barrows, gloves and safety goggles.

Tools and accessories can be picked up at the following 502nd CES locations: building 4197 at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; building 5495 at JBSA-Lackland; and building 891 at JBSA-Randolph. The squadron store locations open at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers are required to sign out for any tools or accessories they will use.

Person said trash that is collected should be taken to collection points at designated dumpsters at JBSA locations. For any large debris that volunteers are unable to transport safely to designated dumpsters, the 502nd CES will provide curb-

side service to pick those items up.

Any items or debris that is set aside for pickup by members of the 502nd CES should be placed at curbs for easy access, Person said. Any items, trash or debris should not be placed in streets.

JBSA organizations, tenant units, agencies and mission partners needing curbside service during the cleanup can contact the 502nd CES at 671-5555, 671-2288 or 671-2289.



# BAMC's neurology clinic, 7T inpatient unit receive honors for top patient-centered care

By Elaine Sanchez  
BAMC Public Affairs Office

Two Brooke Army Medical Center units were recognized for their positive impact on patient safety, experience and satisfaction during a Sept. 15 ceremony at the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston.

BAMC Commander Col. Evan Renz and BAMC Command Sgt. Maj. Tabitha Gavia presented the neurology clinic and the 7T surgical trauma inpatient unit with Commander's Award trophies to honor their stand-out dedication to safe, quality care during the third quarter of fiscal 2015.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Gavia and I are proud to honor these outstanding units for their exceptional dedication to patient care," Renz said.



Photo by Robert T. Shields

BAMC Commander Col. Evan Renz (far right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Tabitha Gavia (far left) present the Commander's trophy to representatives from the neurology clinic for their contributions to patient satisfaction during a ceremony at San Antonio Military Medical Center Sept. 15. Neurology personnel are (from left) Air Force Maj. Wendy Chao, Esther Martinez, Tech. Sgt. Nessie Deguzman and Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Alonso.

The quarterly Commander's Award program recognizes the outpatient clinic with the

highest overall patient satisfaction score on the Army Provider Level Satisfaction

Survey, and the inpatient ward with the most continual efforts to improve patient experience

by directly improving patient safety, explained Army Maj. Renee Zmijski, Clinical Operations Division chief.

The program was inspired by BAMC's High Reliability Organization journey, which focuses on delivering the safest, highest quality care with an aim of zero preventable harm.

The neurology clinic was honored for receiving more than 138 surveys with a perfect 100 percent rating in the area of "overall visit satisfaction" three months in a row.

"The Neurology Clinic excels at providing every patient a comprehensive, expert evaluation for a wide spectrum of neurologic disorders and tailoring a detailed treatment plan based on their individual

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## Indianhead 2nd Infantry vets visit Fort Sam Houston during reunion

By Sgt. Christian A. Turner  
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

The Indianhead patch of the 2nd Infantry Division returned to Fort Sam Houston Sept. 25 for the first time in more than 70 years when the 2nd Infantry Division Association brought more than 180 members to its former home.

Fort Sam Houston was the home of the 2nd Infantry Division from 1919-1942, between World War I and World War II. It served as an experimental unit testing innovations and new fighting concepts for the Army. In 1965, the division relocated to Korea, where it is still headquartered.

"This is an important piece of our history," said 2nd Infantry Division Association National President Aves



Photo by Sgt. Christian A. Turner

2nd (Indianhead) Infantry Division veterans gather in the Quadrangle. This is the first year the group has held a reunion at Fort Sam Houston, the home of 2nd ID from 1919-1942.

Thompson, who served with 2ID in the 23rd Infantry Regiment in Korea in the 1960's. "We are very, very glad to be here."

Many of the members joined the association for the camaraderie of reconnecting with old friends. For others it's to make sure history isn't repeated.

"I don't want kids or anyone else to forget Adolf Hitler and what he had done," said U. J. King, the only member of the 2nd ID Association to serve in both WWII and the Korean War. "I just hope that we never forget." King received one Silver Star and two Bronze Stars for his

efforts as a medic during both wars.

Members have also found motivation to join the association in other places.

Thompson's inspiration came in the movie "We Were Soldiers," the 2002 film about the Ia Drang Battle in Vietnam. "I saw the 2nd ID

and 1st Cavalry patches and it brought back a flood of memories," he said.

Membership to the association is open to any soldier who has served in the 2nd Infantry Division.

"If you wore that 2nd ID patch, you're welcome in our organization," Thompson said.

# Protecting your credit when you're away from home

By Holly Petraeus

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office of Servicemember Affairs

If you're a service member, you know you're part of a special group – those who have answered the call to serve our country. You also know that being in the military may mean long periods of time away from home, as well as your finances.

Being away and mission-focused means you won't be able to regularly check your accounts or credit report, so you may be at increased risk for fraud or identity theft.

This week we released our Fraud Alert Fact Sheet ([http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201508\\_cfpb\\_fraud-protection-tools-to-help-safeguard-servicemembers.pdf](http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201508_cfpb_fraud-protection-tools-to-help-safeguard-servicemembers.pdf)), which provides you with the information you need to know about getting protective alerts inserted into your credit reports when you're away.

Since October 2012, more than 650 active-duty service members have submitted complaints to the CFPB about their credit reports, and one in six of those complaints involved reports of identity theft or account misuse. However, out of those many complaints, less than

one percent reported putting an Active Duty Alert in place before leaving for active duty.

Having an Active Duty Alert on your credit file will notify companies of your military status and ensure that they take reasonable steps to verify the identity of a person who is requesting new credit in your name. The alert will also generally prohibit credit reporting agencies from providing your name for new prescreened credit offers for two years.

In addition to the Active Duty Alert, federal law also permits you to have notices added to your credit files if you believe you are (or might become) a victim of credit reporting fraud or identity theft. And setting up any of these alerts doesn't cost you a cent.

Another choice is a security freeze – a protection that varies from state to state and tends to come with a small fee. But it completely blocks the release of your credit file to new lenders, giving you increased protection and increased peace of mind that no one can borrow in your name while the security freeze is active.

All of these are valuable tools,

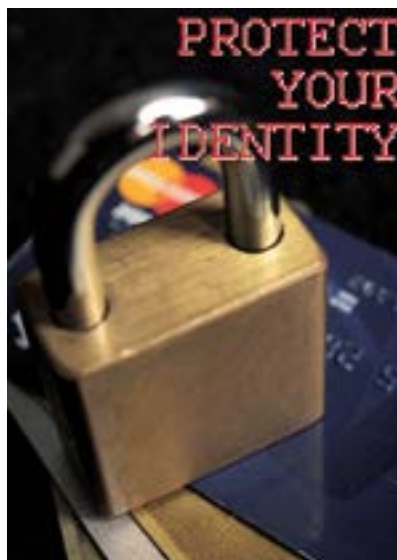


Photo illustration by Airman 1st Class  
Areca T. Wilson

and I encourage you to think about using one of them when duty takes you to distant places. Take a look at our Fraud Alert Fact Sheet so you can learn about all your options and choose the protection that will work best for you when you're away from home.

You can follow these tips to keep an eye out for identity theft at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/1359/how-can-i-spot-identity-theft.html>. If you have a problem with a consumer financial issue or know a service member, veteran or military spouse who does, a complaint can be submitted online (<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/>).

## JBSA-Fort Sam Houston hosts annual Retiree Appreciation Day

By Senior Airman  
Alexandria Slade

JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Retirees will have access to ID card services, a San Antonio Military Medical Center health fair and more during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day to be held Oct. 3 at Blesse Auditorium, building 2841, at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"The goal of Retiree Appreciation Day is to show retirees that they are still an important part of the military they faithfully served," said Joe Silvas, 802nd Force Support Squadron retirement services officer. "We also want to keep retirees and their families informed on services available to them in the local community, as well as current legislation that will have an effect on

retiree benefits, pay and medical care."

Retirees will have access to medical care including flu shots and consultation with various SAMMC medical department representatives during Retiree Appreciation Day.

Representatives from multiple base agencies and vendors will also be available during the event to provide information, answer questions one-on-one with participants and display products and offers of interest to the retiree community.

Attendees are encouraged to bring records of service, medical records and their current ID card.

For more information, call the JBSA retiree affairs offices at 221-9004 for JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, 671-2728 for JBSA-Lackland or 652-6880 for JBSA-Randolph.

**Did you know?** One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service. It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



# Brooke Army Medical Center team wins regional 'Best Medic' competition

By John Franklin  
BAMC Volunteer

As the fog permeates the darkness of the early morning hours at Camp Bullis, teams of medics from throughout the Southern Regional Medical Command compete in a 12-mile march, hauling a 35-pound pack on their back and their weapon in hand.

This was the final event in the three-day competition to earn the title, "Best Medic."

Seven teams of Soldiers from medical treatment facilities across SRMC competed Sept. 18-20 to earn the coveted title, but it was the team from Brooke Army Medical Center – Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Eisele and Spc. Garrett Woodford – who met the challenge.

"What I enjoyed most about the competition was getting out in the field and competing with great Soldiers," Woodford said.

BAMC planned, coordinated and executed the SRMC Best Medic Competition for the region.

"These competitors were challenged in a demanding, continuous and realistic simulated operational environment," said Capt. Jose Capellan, officer in charge of the competition. "In the short time they spent with us at Camp Bullis, they established lasting relationships and fostered esprit de corps. They reviewed and applied the concepts of the performance triad and continuously reflected on their role as professional Soldiers."

The Soldiers first had to complete the Army Physical Fitness Test Sept. 18 before moving to the medical lanes where they were briefed on the scenario which involved two wounded Soldiers and one possible dead in a village under hostile fire.

Each team, followed by evaluators, was scored on their tactical approach to the area and the care they provided the combat casualties they encountered while machine gun fire, mortar blasts and smoke surrounded the area. The teams had only 35 minutes to move



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Eisele (left) and Spc. Garrett Woodford (right), from Brooke Army Medical Center, clear a building during the Southern Regional Medical Command Best Medic Competition Sept. 18 at Camp Bullis.

from the start point to the village, locate the casualties, provide immediate lifesaving aid, and move them safely to an evacuation point.

"The day combat trauma lane was definitely challenging," Eisele said. "Having to maneuver tactically through the woods and the city to get to your casualties and then treat them in the allowed time given and to do it all correctly was intense. We were double checking everything we did just to make sure we wouldn't lose any points."

Teams were also tested in weapons qualification firing both an M-16 rifle and M-6 pistol from a variety of positions, night medical lanes, night land navigation, an obstacle course, a 5K buddy run and a written exam.

During the medic-style buddy run, the competitors faced some

unique challenges.

Each team was required to place a 165-pound casualty on a skid and pull it several hundred meters. The teams were then required to assemble a single channel ground and airborne radio system and call in a simulated medical evacuation request before they could continue.

Near the finish line they encountered three simulated casualties which they needed to assess and load onto an ambulance before running to the finish line.

"The most challenging event was the 5K buddy run. After completing all of the other events leading up to that event we were already tired, so completing the 5K event was definitely difficult," Eisele said. "Having to pull the skid with a casualty in it as far as we did was not easy at all. And then trying

to put together a radio when my arms were so tired was very interesting."

Woodford agreed, "The most challenging events were the 5K and the 12 mile ruck march."

The final day, following the 12-mile march SRMC Commander Brig. Gen. Barbara Holcomb presented Eisele and Woodford with Distinguished Service Medals for their outstanding performance and achievements during the competition. They also received the Outstanding Medic Knife and a SRMC belt buckle.

"This competition gave BAMC the opportunity to improve the organization by providing tough, realistic training in a safe manner while being fiscally responsible," Capellan said. "The execution of the events gave us an opportunity to reconnect with battlefield medicine at the point of injury. At a

Spc. Garrett Woodford (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Eisele (right) pull a skid with a 165-pound dummy simulating a casualty during the Southern Regional Medical Command Best Medic Competition Sept. 18 at Camp Bullis.



Sgt. Eric Pasman (left), Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital, Fort Polk, La., triages a simulated casualty and provides battlefield aid during the Southern Regional Medical Command Best Medic Competition at Camp Bullis Sept. 18-20. An evaluator looks on and scores the correctness of the procedures.



Capt. Carlos Bustamante, Weed Army Community Hospital, Fort Stewart, Ga., works to stop the bleeding on a simulated casualty during the Southern Regional Medical Command Best Medic Competition at Camp Bullis Sept. 18. He is observed and scored on the correctness of his actions as he prepares the casualty for movement to an evacuation point.

medical facility as big and busy as BAMC this is something that is difficult to execute.

"My team planned, coordinated and executed the competition and they had fun doing it. This is why Soldiering is our vocation," he added.

Eisele and Woodford will represent SRMC in the U.S. Army Medical Command CSM Jack L. Clark Jr. Best Medic Competition Oct. 28-30 at Camp Bullis.

"Moving into the next competition we now know what our strengths and weaknesses are and we plan to train accordingly. We have a lot

of training to conduct such as learning about 25 different knots, combat water survival and, of course, maintaining and gaining more strength in the gym. The bottom line is that we plan to prepare to win the Army Best Medic Competition," Eisele said.

"I just want to be as prepared as we possibly can be going into the Army competition," Woodford added.

*(Editor's note: Lori Newman from Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs contributed to this article)*



**Photos by John Franklin**

A medic watches his teammate climb the ladder on the obstacle course as evaluators watch during the Southern Regional Medical Command Best Medic Competition at Camp Bullis Sept. 19. The first medic must be coming down the ladder before the second medic can begin their climb. Competitors have three chances to complete an obstacle before receiving a penalty.

# X-rays go mobile during World War I

One innovation during World War I was the increased mobility of X-ray capabilities. Once smaller portable machines had been developed, it did not take long for the devices to be placed on vehicles.

A description of the set-up is found in "The U.S. Army Medical Department in the World War, Vol. III, Finance and Supply," The Surgeon General's Office, 1923:

"A highly satisfactory portable outfit had been developed, as already noted, but it had to be loaded into some kind of a truck to be moved from one place to another. This was accomplished by a simple modification of the standard United States Army ambulance so that the entire outfit, including the standard Army portable X-ray table, could be transported safely and put into operation in a few minutes."

The gas-engine generator was mounted on



Courtesy photo

a heavy two-inch-thick wooden base and placed inside the ambulance body just behind the driver's seat. This base was fastened by screws to a frame secured to the side walls and floor of the ambulance body.

The instrument box, bedside unit and other equipment were packed in the space between the generator and the rear end of the body. The table top was suspended on the outside of the body flat against the side and protected from the

rain by a waterproof canvas curtain which rolled down over the outside of the table top.

Only 17 of these mobile outfits actually reached France and none of them could be placed in service prior to the armistice. Five of them accompanied the Third Army into Germany, where their usefulness was thoroughly demonstrated.

*(Source: U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage)*

## WORLD WAR II JEEP ALTERATION AIDS MEDICS



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage

U.S. Army medics evacuate a wounded Soldier on a jeep during World War II. Although not originally designed for this function, the jeep was quickly altered to support litters by attaching welded angle iron to its frame.

# JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Navy units pin new chief petty officers

By Petty Officer 1st Class  
Jacquelyn D. Childs  
NMETC Public Affairs

Service members from the Medical Education and Training Campus and Navy Operational Support Center-San Antonio gathered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston with friends and family members to welcome the 24 newest chief petty officers during a pinning ceremony Sept. 16.

Advancing to chief petty officer is a milestone in a Sailor's career, especially at the Navy Medicine Training Support Center, the Navy support element for METC, where the CPO core principles of training and leadership are passed on to junior hospital corps instructors

and students alike.

"The word throughout the Navy is 'ask the chief,'" said retired Master Chief Petty Officer Don Mason, a Navy Cross recipient who spoke at the ceremony. "Now you are the chief. Therefore, it is imperative that you know your job. If you don't know, find out. I will always be extremely grateful to the Navy for teaching me skills and instilling in me the attributes that I have spoken to you about today."

After giving a brief history of some of his assignments and experiences in the Korean War, Mason advised those in attendance that chiefs must have leadership, dedication and professionalism.

Sailors spend their ear-



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jacquelyn D. Childs  
Chief Hospital Corpsman Damien Bush (center) receives his anchors during a pinning ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Navy Medicine Training Support Center and Navy Operational Support Center San Antonio came together to pin 24 chiefs following a six-week indoctrination phase.

ly career developing basic technical and supervisory skills to prepare them for senior leadership roles.

After being selected for promotion to chief, they undergo an indoctrination process that instills a new

sense of camaraderie and advanced leadership expertise.

"The pinning ceremony is the culmination of these last six weeks, which have been filled with intense preparation and hard work," said Capt. Denise Smith, NMTSC commanding officer during the ceremony. "Phase II training focused on preparing each one of you for the position as a non-commissioned officer. In the Navy, E-7 carries unique additional responsibilities and has privileges that are not found in writing, but rather from the greater 200 years of naval history and heritage."

Chief petty officers are the backbone of the Navy, as they mentor not only the junior enlisted

ranks but junior officers as well. They are the sought-after experts in their field who ensure mission success.

"Now that you have received this status, you must live up to the new responsibilities and fulfill the expectations that others will have for you," Mason said. "This is both a joy and a burden. It will be your fellow chiefs you will turn to for advice or to blow off steam."

More than 4,000 new chiefs were pinned across the world and Mason's words of advice apply to each of them.

"Make the most of your opportunities," he said. "Exceed the expectations of others, and make yourself a full partner in this exclusive group."

## 412th Contracting Support Brigade welcomes new commander

By Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

Members of the 412th Contracting Support Brigade at Fort Sam Houston welcomed their new commander during a ceremony at the Quadrangle Sept. 23.

Col. Dennis McGowan assumed command from Col. Tim Strange in a change-of-command ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gabbert, commanding general for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

"It is clear the 412th needs a leader who is strong, adaptable, experienced, knowledgeable and compassionate. These characteristics are what you will find in Col. Dennis McGowan," Gabbert said, noting his most

recent command of the 418th CSB during a deployment to Afghanistan. "It is your task to lead this ready, transparent and accountable organization that is built on trust and respect."

McGowan led Soldiers from the 418th CSB headquarters at Fort Hood, Texas, and lower echelons in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, returning home Sept. 1.

In April, he assumed command of the mission from the U.S. Central Command Joint Theater Support Contracting Command headquarters to serve as the senior Department of Defense contracting official deployed in the Afghanistan area of responsibility. He and brigade members made up the command and

control element in the standup of Expeditionary Contracting Command-Afghanistan.

Prior to deploying with the brigade, he served as MICC chief of staff from August 2014 to January 2015.

"I thank God for the many opportunities I've been blessed with in my Army career," McGowan said. "It humbles me to have this opportunity to lead the civilians and Soldiers of the 412th. I look forward to doing so with distinction, honor and great respect."

The MICC commanding general also recognized the outgoing brigade commander for achieving extraordinary outcomes under his leadership that included expanding to six subordinate contracting offices and directing the

training of more than 1,900 personnel in joint operational contracting support exercises.

Strange, who prepares to retire after serving as commander and principal assistant responsible for contracting for the 412th CSB since July 2012, said he shares his accomplishments with members of the brigade.

"None of those accomplishments were mine. They were all as a result of a great team of hard-working professionals that I was just a part of," Strange said.

The 412th CSB, a subordinate command to the MICC, provides contracting support to numerous supported activities. Those include the Army North, Army Reserve Command, Army Human Resources Command, the

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation Management,

Army Cadet Command and Army Recruiting Command.



Photo by Daniel P. Elkins  
Col. Dennis McGowan addresses members of the 412th Contracting Support Brigade, guests and families during a change of command ceremony Sept. 23 at Fort Sam Houston. McGowan assumed command of the brigade from Col. Tim Strange, who will retire later this year.

# General reflects on Hispanic heritage, credits mentors with her success

By Shannon Collins  
DOD News Features, Defense Media Activity

Education and mentorship helped a young Hispanic girl who dreamed of going to the U.S. Air Force Academy not only achieve her dreams, but earn the rank of major general and the position of deputy A2, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance for Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon.

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Sept. 15 and runs through Oct. 15, Air Force Maj. Gen. Linda Urrutia-Varhall shares her lessons learned at the U.S. Air Force Academy, at luncheons and at other events, hoping to pay it forward to junior enlisted and officers, especially those in the Hispanic community.

Growing up in Pueblo, Colo., Urrutia-Varhall said her biggest role models were her parents.

"My mom was a stay-at-home mom, and my father worked at the Pepsi Cola plant," she said. "My dad, I'm proud to say, came in as a janitor and by the time he retired in 39 years, he was



Maj. Gen. Linda Urrutia-Varhall

running the plant in Pueblo."

She said she got her work ethic from her hard-working parents, adding that her mother is the smartest person she knows. Her relatives didn't really leave Pueblo but she wanted more. When she was 13 in 1974, she and her uncle went to visit the academy.

"I told my uncle, even though there were no women there, I would graduate from there," she said. "He said, 'Oh hija [little one], I know you say that, but they don't let women in here.'

Little did I know I would graduate from there in 1984."

She said her parents told her she could be anything she wanted to be. Her other role model was Lt. Gen. Norma Brown, the first woman to command an Air Force wing in 1974.

Urrutia-Varhall said her ancestors came up from Mexico after arriving from the Basque region of Spain, settling in Colorado for a generation as pickers at a farm and then working long hours at the steel mill in Pueblo.

She said the Air Force was an easy transition for her because the Spanish culture is all about family, and she gets that feeling with the military. The biggest challenge in the military is obtaining the balance of family and career, she said.

"I've been blessed to have met a great man who said he would follow me wherever I went and support me and my career," Urrutia-Varhall said.

The general encourages all Hispanics, as well as all children of all ethnicities, to stay in school and get their education.

"You've got to stay in school to at least have a chance at becoming an enlisted or an officer in the military and doing great things," she said. "Get your secondary education. Some way, you'll make it.

"Whether you work a job, your mom and dad work, whether you get scholarships or grants, somehow, if you want to go to school bad enough, you can get there, and then all you need is somebody to open the door just once," Urrutia-Varhall said. "And for each of us that is in some way successful or helpful, help that one person, just get one person's foot in the door and pay it forward."

The general said she wouldn't be in the position she's in today if it hadn't been for mentors such as her parents, third grade

teacher, air officer commander or husband.

To junior service members and civilians working their way toward leadership positions, she offered this advice: "You never know who you'll meet, where you'll get to go or what you'll get to do or see," Urrutia-Varhall said. "It really helped expand my horizons. Also, if you're an officer or senior enlisted, always look people in the eye and ask them how they're doing. Have empathy and don't become a non-person."

Finally, she said, "You belong in every room; learn to be comfortable in any room you walk in. You belong because of your hard work and everything you do. You belong there just as much as anybody else. And you can be whatever you want to be. The only one holding you back is you."

## DOD celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

The Department of Defense joins the nation in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, observed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, the department and the nation honor the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America, the release said.

The start of National Hispanic Heritage Month also marks the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, the release said, which also noted that the independence of Mexico and Chile are observed shortly thereafter, on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

The theme of this year's observance, "Hispanic

Americans: Energizing our Nation's Diversity," harkens to the vibrant and thriving contributions of Hispanics to our nation across the centuries, according to the release. The celebration seeks to draw attention to the diversity and countless contributions Hispanics continue to make to enrich the United States and strengthen the defense of our nation.

The Defense Department is committed to honoring and recognizing the Hispanic Americans who strengthen the fabric of our country and serve in defense of the values we hold dear, the release said. All department personnel are encouraged to recognize the immeasurable contributions made by Hispanic Americans and to celebrate the diversity of DOD's workforce.

(Source: DOD News, Defense Media Activity)

## FORT SAM HOUSTON HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



San Antonio mayor Ivy Taylor (left) accepts a flower from a Guadalupe Dance Company member during Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the post theater Sept. 25 as U.S. Army South commanding general Maj. Gen. K.K. Chinn looks on. Army South was the host for the celebration and other guests included keynote speaker former U.S. Congressman Pete Gallego, as well as performers from the Guadalupe Dance Company and the Semeneya Dance Team.

Photo by Eric Lucero

# U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy director visits San Antonio

By Larry Coffey  
NMETC Public Affairs

The director of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy was in San Antonio Sept. 23 to meet with the chief petty officer community and discuss recent changes to the academy program.

Command Master Chief Petty Officer Rich Curtis said his Navy Medicine Education and Training Command-sponsored visit was part of a 10-city, 24-day tour of fleet-concentration areas to answer questions and clear up misconceptions about the SEA's new format.

The U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, located in Newport, R.I., is open to E-7 through E-9 from all branches of the U.S. and foreign allied military services.

"I don't want any myths or rumors about the changes to the academy. Come hear it from the horse's mouth," Curtis said, referring to the new "9-3 hybrid-model class."

The SEA switched from a six-week in-residence program to the new 9-3 hybrid model when academy graduation became a

requirement for advancement to master chief petty officer in November 2014.

The first nine weeks of class are now completed on-line before travelling to the Naval War College at Newport, R.I., for the final three weeks of in-residence classes. The 9-3 hybrid-model allows for more quotas per year to accommodate the anticipated increased student numbers.

But the SEA is much more than a requirement for master chief. Curtis, director since February, said it helps the senior NCO community better bridge the gap between junior enlisted and officers.

"We're told as senior NCOs to train those above us, and train those below us," he said.

To help bridge that gap, the Senior Enlisted Academy places emphasis on leadership and communication. Curtis said the communication emphasis is because it's essential for senior NCOs to communicate clearly and appropriately with officers, senior leaders and junior enlisted personnel. Junior troops also want to know why, so the SEA teaches CPOs to

explain some of the why.

"When a junior enlisted asks, 'Why are we worried about China, or why are we in the Middle East, or why are deployments this long,' they are able to answer that why and bridge that gap. We build better leaders and better communicators," Curtis explained.

Academy graduates also learn to develop and present formal speeches and senior-executive-level briefings to commanding officers and flag and general officers. They are also taught social media awareness and use as a leadership tool.

Curtis, a former submarine radioman who worked with Navy message traffic, explained that he receives more emails in an hour than a CPO in the early 1990s received in written "snail mail" in a year. Formal Navy message traffic was the primary means of communication for the fleet. It was a secure, structured, non-grammatically correct method where style was not as important.

"Today, when I write a paper or an email, I have to be conscious of my



Photo by Larry Coffey

Command Master Chief Petty Officer Rich Curtis, director of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, R.I., speaks to San Antonio area chief petty officers at the Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph main auditorium as part of a 10-city, 24-day whirlwind tour of Navy fleet-concentration areas. There are more than 10,000 active duty, reserve and student Navy Sailors, civilian employees and family members in the San Antonio area.

audience," he said.

He also said senior NCOs must be aware of the non-intended audience, referring to social media's viral effect where countless people could obtain and read the material.

"If it's not articulated correctly, if it's not written grammatically correct, if it's not written with some education and structure, then what are you as a senior enlisted saying about yourself?"

Chief Petty Officer Alma Dubois was one of the San Antonio-based CPOs who attended the presentation. She said her takeaway was "hope."

"I had assumed the program was closed off to chiefs," said Dubois, Hospital Corps "A" School instructor at the Medical Education and Training Campus. "Now I know that chiefs can actually get in. I also got re-energized about furthering my career."

While the course structure of the Senior Enlisted Academy has changed, little else has.

"Be prepared to put forth effort," Curtiss said. "The academy is a once-in-a-career opportunity. If you always look at it as the academy isn't this or the academy isn't that, then you'll miss the message. I always tell the students, 'It's not what the academy isn't. It's what the academy is. That's what you'll get out of it.'"

# President praises retiring Dempsey, incoming Joint Chiefs chairman Dunford

By Lisa Ferdinando  
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

In an armed forces full-honors retirement ceremony, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey closed out 41 years of service and Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. succeeded him as the highest-ranking U.S. military officer.

Dempsey swore in Dunford Friday at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest-ranking U.S.

military officer.

President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Ash Carter were among the dignitaries who attended today's retirement and change of responsibility ceremony.

"We all owe this great country our very best and our fellow citizens our very best," Dempsey said. "It was humbling to accept this job four years ago and it's humbling to relinquish it today."

Dunford said he was humbled for the opportunity to represent the men

and women in uniform. "They are a true national treasure. My focus in the coming days will be to provide them with the leadership and the support that they deserve," he said.

Obama praised Dempsey for his vision for the military, his moral fiber and deep commitment to American strength and values.

Dempsey served during a time of many challenges, the president said, and managed each one with "integrity

and foresight and care." America has reassured its global allies, ended the combat mission in Afghanistan, and forged new partnerships to fight terrorism, the president noted.

"We built a coalition that is combating ISIL in Iraq and Syria and have we bolstered our cyber defenses. We helped halt the spread of Ebola in West Africa," Obama said. "None of this would have been possible without Marty's guidance and leadership."



Photo by Spc. Cody W. Torkelson

Prior to his retirement ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Deanie, place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Sept. 25.

Obama described Dempsey as "one of the finest men that I know." He picked Dempsey to be chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff and previously chief of staff of the Army, he said, because

**See DEMPSEY, P17**

# President nominates Fanning as next Secretary of the Army

President Barack Obama announced his intent recently to nominate Eric K. Fanning for the position of Army secretary.

Fanning currently serves as the acting undersecretary of the Army and as chief management officer for the Army. He was appointed to that position by the president in June.

"These fine public servants bring a depth of experience and tremendous dedication to their important roles," the president said of the potential nominees. "I look forward to working with them."

As secretary of the Army, Fanning will have statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the service, including manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management. Fanning will be

responsible for developing and implementing the Department of the Army's annual budget, and will lead a work force of more than 1 million active-duty, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers, and 250,000 Department of the Army civilian employees. He will also take on stewardship of more than 13 million acres of land.

In addition to his role as acting undersecretary of the Army, Fanning has served as special assistant to Defense Secretary Ash Carter since March. He also served as chief of staff to the secretary from March to June.

"Eric served as my first chief of staff at the Pentagon and it has been a privilege over the course of my career to work alongside him and watch him develop into one of our country's most knowledgeable, dedicated and experienced public servants," Carter said. "I know



U.S. Army photo

During a visit to Fort Hood, Texas, Acting Undersecretary of the Army Eric Fanning (left) spends some time with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, Sept 15.

he will strengthen our Army, build on its best traditions, and prepare our ground forces to confront a new generation of challenges.

"President Obama has made an excellent choice and I hope for a quick Senate confirmation," Carter said.

Fanning has served as the acting undersecretary of the Army since June,

where he worked alongside current Army Secretary John M. McHugh, who said he is impressed with Fanning's accomplishments.

"Since my earliest days in the Pentagon, I have consistently witnessed Eric demonstrate sound judgment and insight," McHugh said. "Our Soldiers, civilians and their Families will

benefit greatly from his leadership. I commend President Obama on an outstanding nomination."

In June, McHugh announced he intends to step down from the secretary position no later than Nov. 1.

Recently appointed Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley also offered congratulations to Fanning.

"I want to congratulate Honorable Fanning on his nomination as the 22nd secretary of the Army," Milley said. "Upon confirmation, I look forward to working with him on addressing the challenges our great Army faces now and in the future."

Fanning has served in a variety of other defense positions and across multiple services.

From April 2013 until February 2015, Fanning served as the 24th undersecretary of the Air Force. As undersecretary and chief management officer of the Air Force, he oversaw an

annual budget of more than \$110 billion by serving as co-chair of the top Air Force corporate decision-making body, the Air Force Council. He also led the Air Force Space Board, the Air Force Energy Council, the Force Management and Development Council, and numerous other Air Force decision-making bodies.

From June to December 2013, Fanning served as acting secretary of the Air Force.

From 2009 to 2013, Fanning served as the deputy undersecretary of the Navy and deputy chief management officer of the Navy. In this role, he led the department's business transformation and governance processes and coordinated several efforts to identify enterprise-wide efficiencies.

Fanning is a graduate of Dartmouth College.

(Source: DOD News, Defense Media Activity)



### Helping Us Grow Securely Playgroup

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon,  
Middle School Teen Center, building  
2515. Parents and their children,

ages 5 and under are welcome to  
join fun with an interactive play-  
group. Registration not required.  
Call 221-2418.

### Army Pre-Separation

Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30-  
11:30 a.m., Military & Family Read-  
iness, building 2797. Army patrons  
separating are encouraged to begin  
the process 18 months prior to their  
separation date. This counseling is

coordinated through the Soldier for  
Life Program. Call 221-1213.

### Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Run/Walk

Oct. 24, registration at 7:15  
a.m., run/walk starts at 8 a.m.,  
Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.  
Show awareness of domestic  
violence by wearing purple top. Do-  
nations of baby wipes, along with  
women's and children's underwear

collected for local shelters. Call  
292-5967.

### School Liaison Office

The School Liaison Office  
assists parents with children in  
grades K-12. SLO can help with  
the transition between schools;  
provide information about local  
school systems, policies, programs  
and more. Call 221-2214 for more  
information.

## HONORS from P8

needs and goals," said  
Air Force Maj. Wendy  
Chao, SAMMC staff  
neurologist. "All of our  
providers go above and  
beyond to personally  
address a patient and  
family's questions and  
concerns during every  
visit."

"Winning the  
Commander's Cup  
validates what we in  
neurology have known  
for some time – the care  
we offer is exceptional,"

Chao added. "It is an  
honor to be recog-  
nized among our peers  
and fuels our group  
to continue the qual-  
ity work we strive to do  
every day."

The 7T Surgical  
Trauma Inpatient Unit  
team stood out for its  
innovations and patient  
satisfaction. This 26-  
bed unit is the largest  
surgical trauma unit at  
San Antonio Military  
Medical Center, treating  
a wide, complex range  
of diagnoses from facial  
fractures to multiple  
traumas.

The award, in part,  
recognized the team's  
patient satisfaction  
scores, which have  
remained above 90  
percent with an overall  
96 percent satisfaction  
in discharge planning.  
Additionally, 7T leader-  
ship has incorporated  
the Performance Triad  
pillars of sleep, activity  
and nutrition throughout  
the unit to improve the  
morale and welfare of  
the staff.

"To receive this honor  
reinforced from the  
command team that the  
Surgical Trauma unit is

meeting the mission and  
inspiring Army Medi-  
cine's vision," said Army  
Lt. Col. Vanessa Wor-  
sham, 7T clinical nurse  
officer in charge. "On 7T,  
every patient is a VIP;  
we take pride in provid-  
ing patient-centered,  
safe, quality care. We  
strive to restore health,  
improve patient out-  
comes and their inpa-  
tient experience. The pil-  
lars of the Performance  
Triad continue to have  
a positive impact on our  
whitespace, resiliency,  
and being a System for  
Health."

## WTB from P1

of the Soldier and their  
Families."

Following Smith's meet  
and greet with wounded  
warriors at the Center  
for the Intrepid, Smith  
praised the work being  
done to help wounded  
warriors transition into  
civilian life.

"The one place that we  
don't have to worry about  
is here in San  
Antonio, the Center for  
the Intrepid and the War-  
rior Transition Battalion.  
They get first class care  
all the time," Smith said  
to the staff and patients.  
"Thank you for what you  
do."

In addition to learning  
about the WTB's mission,  
Hurd was also introduced  
to the importance of the  
Soldier Adaptive and  
Reconditioning Program  
and how they play a vital

role in helping Soldiers in  
their recovery, rehabilita-  
tion and reintegration.

"Getting involved with  
adaptive reconditioning  
allows recovering Soldiers  
to hone different skills,  
focus and relax," Thomp-  
son said. "It has a big  
impact on their recovery  
and their overall well-  
being."

"They are able to train  
in various sports such as  
cycling, track and field,  
archery, shooting, sitting  
volleyball, swimming and  
wheelchair basketball or  
less stringent activities  
such as fishing, music  
and horseback riding,"  
Thompson said. "Many  
Soldiers compete in the  
Warrior Games, and  
bring home medals every  
year – most of them gold  
and silver."

"You are an inspiration  
to a lot of people. Keep  
up the great work. This

is pretty awesome," Hurd  
said. "The WTB doesn't  
practice the common  
practice, you set the best  
practice," he said.

Since January 2007,  
more than 71,000  
wounded, ill or injured  
Soldiers and their families  
received care from the  
dedicated Warrior Care  
and Transition Program  
with more than 30,000 –  
approximately 44 percent  
– of Soldiers returned to  
the force.

The Army is caring  
for more than 3,000  
wounded, ill and injured  
Soldiers and Veterans  
between WTB and the  
Army Wounded War-  
rior Program with  
BAMC WTB having 273  
Soldiers assigned to the  
battalion.

For more information  
about the BAMC WTB,  
visit <http://www.bamc.amedd.army.mil/wtb>.

## DEMPSEY from P16

the general had the  
"steady hand" needed in  
the moment of transition.

Defense Secretary Ash  
Carter said that before  
Dempsey became chair-  
man, he was already a  
proven military leader  
who led the 1st Armored  
Division during "difficult  
days," returned to re-  
constitute the Iraqi army,  
and had been chief of  
staff of the Army.

"Every decision the  
military leader makes,  
large or small, touches  
the lives of our troops.  
It touches the lives of  
countless families, it  
changes the nature of the  
world and the destiny of  
the country," Carter said.

"For the men and  
women who operate  
during a time of rapid  
change and uncertainty,  
this is the constant

weight and responsibil-  
ity of leadership," Carter  
said.

Dempsey said it has  
been his privilege to  
serve the nation. The  
men and women who  
serve the nation are  
"most precious treasure,"  
he said.

"Our nation and its  
armed forces remain the  
world's foremost symbols  
of strength, of hope, and  
of freedom," Dempsey  
said. "The generation  
that is now blessed to  
serve will do its duty and  
will ensure that our na-  
tion remains strong."

Dunford commended  
Dempsey for his service  
to the nation.

"We're all indebted  
to Gen. Marty Dempsey  
for his extraordinary  
leadership, commit-  
ment and service, and  
on a personal note, for  
many years he has been

a great friend, men-  
tor and role model,"  
Dunford said.

Dempsey forever hon-  
ors the 132 soldiers who  
lost their lives under his  
command in Iraq, Obama  
said, explaining how  
Dempsey has a box that  
contains each soldier's  
picture and story.

"And on top of the box  
are three words: make it  
matter," Obama said.

"Every morning, Marty  
places three of the cards  
in his pocket so that ev-  
ery moment as chairman,  
every meeting, every trip,  
every decision, every  
troop review, every mo-  
ment of every day, some  
of those fallen heroes are  
with him," the president  
said.

Dempsey, in closing his  
speech said, "To all who  
will continue to serve  
after, I ask only this in  
parting, make it matter."

## CHAPEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

#### Sundays

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way  
8 and 11 a.m. - Traditional

#### Dodd Field Chapel

Building 1721, 5584 Dodd Blvd.

8:30 a.m. - Samoan

10:30 a.m. - Gospel

#### Army Medical Department

#### Regimental Chapel

Building 1398, 3545 Garden Ave.

9:20 a.m. - 32nd Medical Brigade

Contemporary Service

11:01 - Contemporary "Crossroads"

#### Brooke Army Medical

#### Center Chapel

Building 3600,

3551 Roger Brooke Rd.

10 a.m. - Traditional

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

#### Daily Mass

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel

Building 3600,

3551 Roger Brooke Rd.

11:05 a.m., Monday through Friday

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

Building 2200, 2301 Wilson Way

### 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday

#### Saturday

#### Main Post (Gift) Chapel

4:45 p.m. - Reconciliation

5:30 p.m. - Evening Mass

#### Sunday

8 a.m. - Morning Mass, AMEDD

8:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC

9:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, MPC

11:30 a.m. - Morning Mass, BAMC

12:30 p.m. - Afternoon Mass, DFC

### JEWISH SERVICES

8 p.m. - Jewish Worship,

Friday, MPC

8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat,

Friday, MPC

### ISLAMIC SERVICES

2:00 p.m. - Islamic Services,

Monday thru Thursday, BAMC

1:15 p.m. - Jummah, Friday, AMEDD

### LATTER DAY SAINTS SERVICES

1 p.m. - LDS Worship, Sunday, AMEDD

### BUDDHIST SERVICES

10 a.m. - Buddhist Services,

Saturday, AMEDD

*For worship opportunities of faith groups not listed here,  
please visit the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Chaplain's website at  
<http://www.jbsa.af.mil/jbsachapel/samhouston.asp>.*

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